

wherein the method includes at least one of automatically preventing one but not all of said sets from being considered during the validation period of a subsequent validation operation, and automatically causing a different set of criteria, associated with a different type of article of the same currency, to be considered during the validation period of a subsequent validation operation.

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7 and 9-19 have been rejected, and claims 6-8 have been objected to in the Final Office Action dated January 9, 2001. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended herein.

This amendment is being filed on even date with the Appeal Brief for this application, and no fee is believed to be due. But if there is a fee deficiency, please charge deposit account 06-1050.

In a review of the claims on Appeal, the applicant discovered a clerical error concerning claim 1. The phrase "issuing the signal indicative of" was removed from claim 1 in the Amendment mailed on November 21, 2000 in response to the Office Action of August 22, 2000. However, applicant's attorney overlooked the fact that dependent claims 3, 4, 6-8 and 10, which all indirectly depend upon claim 1, each reference "the signal". Consequently, line 6 of claim 1 has been amended herein to add back the phrase --issuing a signal indicative of--. No new matter has been added.

The amendment provides the proper antecedent basis for dependent claims 3, 4, 6-8 and 10, and does not change the scope of claim 1. The amendment was not earlier presented because applicant's attorney was not aware of the error until recently. In view of the above remarks, the applicant respectfully requests entry of this amendment because it puts claim 1 and dependent claims 3, 4, 6-8 and 10 in better form for appeal.

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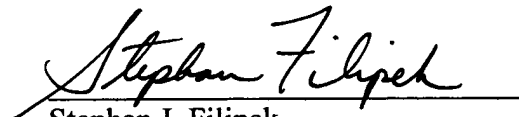
Claim 2 has been amended herein for the purposes of clarification. In a close review of claim 2 in view of the Examiner's comments, applicant's attorney noticed a slight ambiguity in the sentence structure that may precipitate an incorrect interpretation. In particular, the phrase "prior to issuing the signal" of unamended claim 2 may be read to apply to the term "checked", which is applicant's intent, or possibly to apply to the term "altering", which was not intended. Accordingly, claim 2 has been amended to replace the phrase "including altering" with --wherein--, and to add --is altered-- following "signal". Thus, claim 2 now clearly recites that it is the combination of sets which had been checked prior to issuing an accept or reject signal that is altered, as originally intended by the applicant. The amendment was not earlier presented because applicant's attorney believed that claim 2 was clear as originally drafted, and only recently became aware of the potential ambiguity. In view of the above remarks, the applicant respectfully requests entry of this amendment because it puts claims 2 in better form for appeal.

The applicant respectfully asserts that the changes to claims 1 and 2 do not include any new matter, do not necessitate a new search and do not otherwise introduce new issues.

In view of the above remarks, the applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments to claims 1 and 2.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDED CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES

1. (Thrice Amended) A method of validating articles of currency, comprising:
checking, prior to determining whether or not the article is to be accepted or rejected, the measured properties of an article against a plurality of sets of criteria, each set corresponding to a predetermined type of article;
determining whether the article is a valid type of one of the predetermined types and issuing a signal indicative of whether the article is to be accepted or rejected; and
subsequently determining whether the measured properties meet at least one further set of criteria of an article of a different type.
2. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein [including altering] the combination of sets which are checked prior to issuing the signal is altered.